

ELECTION OF CLAIMS

The Examiner has set forth a restriction requirement with regard to claims 1-27.

The grouping of the claims is set forth as follows:

| <u>GROUP</u> | <u>CLAIMS</u> | <u>CLASSIFICATION</u> |
|--------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| I | 1-6 and 9-19 | Class 257, Subclass 531 |
| II | 7-8 and 20-27 | Class 438, Subclass 1+ |

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's restriction requirement, Applicants have elected claims 1-6 and 9-19 (Group I) for initial examination. However, it is respectfully submitted that the restriction requirement is improper and no serious burden is presented to the Examiner to consider all of the claims in a single application.

In addition to the above reasons to consider all of the claims in a single application, as set forth in Section 803 of the MPEP, the Examiner must examine an application on the merits if the examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden. Two criteria are identified for proper requirement for restriction:

1. The inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed; and
2. There must be a serious burden on the Examiner if the restriction is not required.

Applicants respectfully submit that a serious burden has not been placed on the Examiner to consider all of the claims in a single application. A review of the subject matter set forth in claims 1-27 would include a review of both classes 257 and 438. Thus, a different field of search really does not exist with regard to the claims of the present application.

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's restriction requirement, claims 1-6 and 9-19 have been initially elected. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his restriction requirement and act on all of the claims in the present application. If the Examiner does persist in his restriction requirement, Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications directed to claims 7-8 and 20-27 at a later date if they so desire.

Favorable action on the present application is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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